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SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/WE, EUR/SE - FOOKS, SARAJEVO - MURPHY

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SUBJECT: BOSNIA: UK NOMINATES SIR EMYR JONES PARRY AS HEAD
OF THE OFFICE OF HIGH REPRESENTATIVE (OHR)

Classified By: Political Counselor Richard M. Mills, Jr. for reasons 1.
4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Former UK Perm Rep to NATO and the UN, Sir Emyr Jones Parry (bio para 4), has been nominated by the UK to be the next High Representative for Bosnia, replacing Miroslav Lajcak, who is leaving to become Slovakia's Foreign Minister.

FCO Bosnia desk officer Matthew Andrew Harvey said that given the quality and experience of the other nominees, HMG expects little real competition for Jones Parry. The candidates are expected to interview with the EU Commission on February 17, and the preferred name will be forwarded to the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) for approval. The UK's goal is to have the February 23 GAERC announce Jones Parry's selection.

12. (C) HMG's confidence in the success of Jones Parry's candidacy is bolstered by reactions it has received from key EU and PIC members. While Russia was "noncommittal," HMG remains concerned that Moscow may try to use Lajcak's resignation as an excuse to close the OHR prematurely, i.e. before Bosnia has met all conditions and objectives. As a fallback, the UK intends to circulate a paper among EU member states proposing to reinforce the mandate of the European Union Special Representative (EUSR). The OHR will eventually transition to the EUSR.

His Current Welsh Government Role

13. (SBU) Jones Parry's current job is head of the All Wales Convention (AWC), which has as its primary responsibility the referendum on full law-making powers (independence by any other name). His tenure has been controversial: Plaid Cymru, the Welsh Nationalist Party joined the coalition Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) with Labour on the condition that the AWC brought forward a referendum on greater devolution by 2011; Labour considers the group a sop to its junior partners and hopes it fails; and the Tories (who officially support and unofficially oppose devolution) see him as their mortal enemy. Polls show the average Welshman doesn't care specifically about Jones Parry, but does support a referendum, and if Jones Parry were to leave for Bosnia, Plaid might leave the coalition government, as no one else in the AWC has the gravitas to keep the referendum on track.

Bio Information

14. (U) Sir Emyr Jones Parry GCMG was born in Carmarthenshire on September 21, 1947. He was educated at Gwendraeth Grammar School and later attended University College Cardiff, where he read Theoretical Physics. He subsequently gained a PhD in Polymer Physics at St Catherine's College, Cambridge. He joined the Foreign Office in 1973. His first posting was to the British High Commission in Ottawa as First Secretary (1974-1979). He returned to the Foreign Office to work in the European Community Department (Internal), 1979-1982. Sir

Emyr was posted to the Office of UK Representation to the European Community, Brussels as First Secretary (Energy) and then Institutions, 1982-1986. This was followed by a period as Deputy Head, Office of the President of the European Parliament, 1987-1989. He returned to the Foreign Office as Head of European Community Department (External), 1989-1993. His next overseas position was Minister, British Embassy Madrid, 1993-1996, then Deputy Political Director in the Foreign Office, 1996-1997. From 1997-1998 he was Director European Union, with overall responsibility for policy, coordination and organization of the United Kingdom Presidency of the EU. From July 1998 to August 2001 he was the Foreign Office Political Director. He took over as the UK Permanent Representative at NATO in September 2001. Sir Emyr was appointed British Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 2003 until his retirement in July 2007. He was knighted in 2002.

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